

CLAIMS

1. A shift lever mechanism, comprising a lever, pivoting means, adapted to facilitate
5 pivoting of said lever into a plurality of positions, and lever position indication
means, operable to indicate disposal of the lever in one or more predetermined
positions, wherein the pivoting means comprises a spherical element and the lever
position indication means comprises transducer means, disposed adjacent the
10 spherical element to be co-operable with actuation means, such that, upon positioning
of the lever in said each predetermined position, the actuation means actuates the
transducer means to indicate, to a user, disposal of the lever in said each
predetermined position,
characterised in that at least part of the actuation means is disposed on the spherical
element.
- 15 2. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transducer means
comprises a switch.
3. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the switch comprises a
20 potentiometer.
4. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transducer means
comprises an air valve.
- 25 5. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the
actuation means comprises a member and a receiver, adapted to receive the member
therein.
- 30 6. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the member is disposed on
the transducer means and the receiver is disposed on the pivoting means.

7. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, comprising a housing and wherein the transducer means is disposed in the housing.
- 5 . 8. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the transducer means is disposed along an axis extending radially outwards relative to the longitudinal axis of the housing.
9. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein at least
10 part of the transducer means is displaceable relative to at least part of the pivoting means.
10. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claims 5 to 9, wherein the member is
15 displaceable relative to the receiver.
11. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claims 9 and 10, wherein the displacement is substantially along an axis extending radially outwards relative to the pivoting means.
12. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims comprising
20 resilient means, operable to provide resistance to displacement of the lever into one or more predetermined positions, wherein the resistance is provided by the pivoting means.
13. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the resilient means
25 comprises a resilient member and a detent.
14. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the detent is disposed on the pivoting means.
- 30 15. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claims 13 and 14, wherein the resilient member is disposed on the housing.

16. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the resilient member is disposed substantially along an axis extending radially outwards from the pivoting means.

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17. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claims 13 to 16, wherein the resilient member is displaceable relative to the detent.

18. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the spherical element is disposed in a retaining cup and is operable to pivotally move therein.

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19. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 18, wherein at least one of the spherical element and cup is formed from a plastics material.

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20. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 18, wherein at least one of the spherical element and cup is formed from a metallic material.

21. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the spherical element is fixed to the lever thereby forming a pivot point on the lever.

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22. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the spherical element is fixed to the lever by means of a retaining pin.

23. A shift gear mechanism as claimed in Claims 1 to 20, wherein the spherical element forms an integral part of the lever thereby forming a pivot point on the lever.

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24. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the lever extends through the spherical element to form an arrangement substantially coaxial therewith.

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